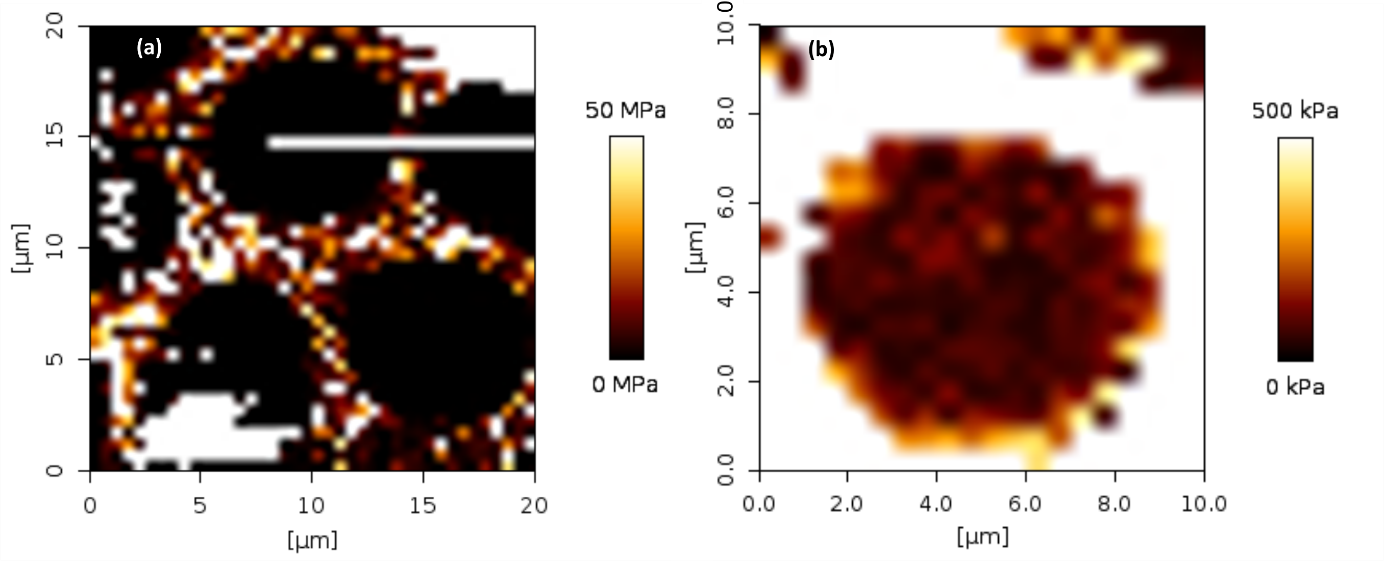
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**Appendix 2**: Exposed intervessel pit membranes of Clematis vitalba after removal of the overlying secondary cell wall, imaged with atomic force microscopy in QI mode in water. The colours encode an elasticity modulus. However, the underlying model is not suitable for pit membranes. Therefore, this imaging was only used to find pit membranes in the samples. (a) Overview pictures of 20 x 20 µm and 32 x 32 pixels. (b) Detailed picture of 10 x 10 µm and 20 x 20 pixels.